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Agenda item 59 (a)

Training and research: United Nations University

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Vanessa **Gomes** (Portugal)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 59 (see A/61/428, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 29th and 33rd meetings, on 14 November and 6 December 2006. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/61/SR.29 and 33).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.36 and Rev.1

2. At the 29th meeting, on 14 November, the representative of Japan, on behalf of Belgium, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, Japan, Jordan and Malaysia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations University" (A/C.2/61/L.36) which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* its previous resolutions on the United Nations University, including resolution 59/253 of 22 December 2004,

"*Having considered* the report of the Council of the United Nations University, as presented by the Rector of the University on 14 November 2006,

"1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the United Nations University and its research and training centres and programmes for their continuing efforts to generate and share knowledge to address the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare as set out in the Charter of the University, and requests the University to intensify these efforts;

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in three parts, under the symbol A/61/428 and Add.1 and 2.

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"2. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to Japan and the other host countries of the University and its research and training centres and programmes, and to public and private entities for the financial, intellectual and other contributions that have been made available for the work of the University;

"3. *Encourages* the University to intensify its communication and dialogue with Member States, including in particular its host countries, and educational networks to increase their awareness and understanding of its work, which is essential for strengthening the relevance and outreach of the University and in this regard notes with satisfaction the increased level of communication and cooperation between the University and the Permanent Missions to the United Nations, the United Nations Secretariat, non-governmental organizations and civil society entities in New York, and requests that such activities be continued and further strengthened;

"4. *Notes with particular appreciation* the University's support of scholars and academic institutions in developing countries and the countries with economies in transition, including in particular young scholars, through its research and capacity and network development activities, highly appreciates the efforts of the University and its research and training centres and programmes in expanding their cooperative networks of institutions, academic associations and individual scholars worldwide and in developing innovative interdisciplinary programmes that produce concrete outcomes, and encourages the University to further expand those efforts;

"5. *Welcomes* the diversification of the University's budgetary sources, and encourages the international community to provide voluntary contributions in order to ensure a sound funding base for the activities of the University;

"6. *Notes with interest* the signing of the agreement to establish a new research and training centre, the United Nations University — International Institute for Global Health, in Kuala Lumpur, and encourages the University to continue its efforts to expand and strengthen its network of research and training centres and programmes in furtherance of the needs of developing countries;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to encourage other bodies of the United Nations system to utilize more fully the capacity of the University for mobilizing a worldwide network of researchers to assist the United Nations, through research and capacity development programmes, in resolving pressing global problems;

"8. *Requests* the University to make renewed efforts to identify the critical areas where University research is most needed by other United Nations organizations and to carry out research that yields effective outcomes contributing to policymaking in the United Nations system, and encourages the University to disseminate the outcome of its research more widely and to make it available in a readily accessible form;

"9. *Appreciates* the efforts made by the University to streamline and improve the administrative management at its headquarters in Japan, requests that such reform measures be continued to increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the University's operations, and appreciates equally the

renewed efforts of the University to implement its projects in an efficient and cost-effective manner in order to make the best use of the limited resources placed at the disposal of the University;

"10. *Takes note* of the full integration of activities of the United Nations University-Institute for New Technologies with the Maastricht Economic Research Institute on Innovation and Technology of Maastricht University and the subsequent renaming of the Institute as the United Nations University-Maastricht Economic and Social Research and Training Centre on Innovation and Technology;

"11. *Takes note*, in particular, of the progress made by the University in forging cooperative links with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat related to the Water Virtual Learning Centre and with the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat in relation to the research of the United Nations University-Comparative Regional Integration Studies on comparative regional integration;

"12. *Takes note with appreciation* of the University's contributions to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005 and to the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005;

"13. *Also takes note* of the planned external evaluation of the University after its thirtieth year of operation in the framework of its quality assurance procedures, and requests that the evaluation, which is to commence in early 2007, be undertaken to thoroughly review how and to what extent the University and its activities have met the original mission assigned to the University and be used as a means to strengthen the University's role as a think tank for the United Nations system;

"14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled 'United Nations University'."

3. At the 33rd meeting, on 6 December, the representative of Japan, on behalf of Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, the Niger, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zambia, introduced a revised draft resolution entitled "United Nations University" (A/C.2/61/L.36/Rev.1). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Australia, Bhutan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, the Gambia, Grenada, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Mali, Micronesia (Federated States of),

Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Spain, the Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Zimbabwe also joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.36/Rev.1 (see para. 7).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Japan made a statement (see A/C.2/61/SR.33).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations University

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the United Nations University, including resolution 59/253 of 22 December 2004,

Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University,[1]

1. *Takes note* of the continuing efforts of the United Nations University and its research and training centres and programmes to generate and share knowledge to address the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare as set out in the Charter of the University, and encourages the University to intensify those efforts;

2. *Expresses its deep gratitude and appreciation* for the dedication and commitment, as well as the accomplishments, of Professor Hans van Ginkel during his tenure as Under-Secretary-General and Rector of the United Nations University, allowing the University to significantly grow and progress as an institution in the past ten years;

3. *Also expresses its deep appreciation* to Japan and the other host countries of the University and its research and training centres and programmes, and to public and private entities, for the financial, intellectual and other contributions to enhancing the work of the University;

4. *Encourages* the University to intensify its communication and dialogue with Member States, including in particular its host countries, as well as joint activities with other relevant international organizations and educational networks to increase their awareness and understanding of its work, which is essential for strengthening the relevance and outreach of the University, and in this regard takes note with appreciation of the increased level of communication and cooperation between the University and the Permanent Missions to the United Nations, the United Nations Secretariat, non-governmental organizations and civil society entities in New York, and requests that such activities be continued and further strengthened;

5. *Notes with particular appreciation* the University's support of scholars and academic institutions in developing countries and the countries with economies in transition, including in particular young scholars, through its research and capacity and network development activities, highly appreciates the efforts of the University and its research and training centres and programmes in expanding their cooperative networks of institutions, academic associations and individual scholars worldwide and in developing innovative interdisciplinary programmes that produce concrete outcomes, and encourages the University to further expand those efforts;

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 31* (A/61/31).

6. *Welcomes* the diversification of the University's budgetary sources, and encourages the international community to provide voluntary contributions in order to ensure a sound funding base for the activities of the University;

7. *Notes with interest* the signing of the agreement to establish a new research and training centre, the United Nations University-International Institute for Global Health, in Kuala Lumpur, and encourages the University to continue its efforts to expand and strengthen its network of research and training centres and programmes in furtherance of the needs of developing countries;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to encourage other bodies of the United Nations system to utilize more fully the capacity of the University for mobilizing a worldwide network of researchers to assist the United Nations, through research and capacity development programmes, in resolving pressing global problems, and to keep Member States informed of the progress;

9. *Requests* the University to make renewed efforts to identify the critical areas where University research is most needed by other United Nations organizations and to carry out research that yields effective outcomes contributing to policymaking in the United Nations system, and encourages the University to disseminate the outcome of its research more widely and to make it available in a readily accessible form;

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts made by the University to streamline and improve the administrative management at its headquarters in Japan, requests that such reform measures be continued to increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the University's operations, and encourages the renewed efforts of the University to implement its projects in an efficient and cost-effective manner in order to make the best use of the resources placed at the disposal of the University;

11. *Takes note* of the full integration of activities of the United Nations University-Institute for New Technologies with the Maastricht Economic Research Institute on Innovation and Technology of Maastricht University and the subsequent renaming of the Institute as the United Nations University-Maastricht Economic and Social Research and Training Centre on Innovation and Technology;

12. *Takes note*, in particular, of the progress made by the University in forging cooperative links with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat related to the Water Virtual Learning Centre and with the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat in relation to the research of the United Nations University-Comparative Regional Integration Studies on comparative regional integration;

13. *Takes note with appreciation* of the University's contributions to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005 and to the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005;

14. *Welcomes* the planned external evaluation of the University after its thirtieth year of operation in the framework of its quality assurance procedures, and requests that the evaluation, which is to commence early in 2007, be undertaken to thoroughly review how and to what extent the University and its activities have met the original mission assigned to the University and be used as a means to strengthen

the University's capacity development activities and its role as a think tank for the United Nations system;

15. *Decides* that, instead of being submitted in 2008, the report of the Council of the United Nations University and other reports on the work of the University shall be submitted biennially to the Economic and Social Council, rather than to the General Assembly for its consideration, beginning in 2009.